

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being added or cancelled.

Claims 1, 7, 17, 20 and 23 are currently being amended.

This amendment and reply amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-5, 7, 8, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24 and 26-34 remain pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 1-5, 7, 8, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24 and 26-34 (with the filing of a terminal disclaimer to overcome the double patenting rejection of those claims). The amendments made to independent claims 1, 7, 17, 20 and 23 are not believed to affect the allowability of those claims.

Support for Claim Amendments:

Support for the amendments made to claims 1, 7, 17, 20 and 23 may be found, for example, in paragraph 0010 of the specification, which equates access nodes with radio links.

Claim Rejections – Double Patenting:

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7, 8, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24 and 26-34 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,725,039. Due to the filing of a terminal disclaimer concurrently with this amendment and reply, the double patenting rejection has been overcome.

Conclusion:

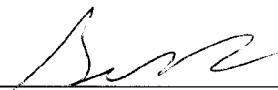
Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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